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Administrator,

Next week ORD's senior leadership will meet to continue discussions about the ORD reorganization, our state engagement, and progress on our Strategic Research Action Plans.

Hot issues

Board of Scientific Counselors (BOSC)

This week, the BOSC Safe and Sustainable Water Resources (SSWR) Subcommittee held a [HYPERLINK "https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/03/19/2019-05151/board-of-scientific-counselors-bosc-safe-and-sustainable-water-resources-subcommittee-meeting-april"] at EPA in Washington, DC to discuss the SSWR Strategic Research Action Plan. The meeting went well and ORD appreciates OW and Region 5 participating.

Region 5 States Visit and Tour EPA-Cincinnati

This week State environmental commissioners from states in Region 5, as well as the Regional Administrator, are visiting EPA-Cincinnati Thursday and Friday. The visit will include overviews of ORD's research and services it can provide to the states. Tours and research overviews will include the Office of Water lab (PFAS method development & PFAS research), the Pilot Plant (HABs and lead research), and the AMSARC lab (lead pipe scale analysis research).

ORD TSCA Support

Staff are supporting methylene chloride through physiologically based pharmacokinetic (PBPK) and benchmark dose (BMD) disciplinary workgroups to address requests for updated modelling. Work for the perchloroethylene evaluation continues with human health characterizations and consultation on analysis techniques including meta-analyses. Staff continue to support review and feedback on hazard sections for methylene chloride and expect more interactions across the evaluations for follow-up on recently completed writing and analysis work.

ORD Earth Day and STEM Activities

- **1st Annual Science on Earth Day (ScED) Talk Series:** On April 24th, ORD's Chelsea Weitekamp presented at the 1st Annual Science on Earth Day (ScED) Talk series as part of EPA-RTP Campus

Earth Day activities. Entitled “Why you should ditch antibacterial soap,” she described the results from a research collaboration and discussed the bi-directional impacts of exposure to antibacterial chemicals on microbial communities in larval zebrafish.

- **EPA-RTP STEM Outreach Program**

- On April 28th, EPA-RTP’s Community Engagement and STEM Education Program will host a booth at the Durham Earth Day Festival at Central Park in Durham, N.C.
- On April 29th, the Program will present hands-on activities about air and water quality to 7th and 8th grade students at Little River K-8 School in Durham.
- On April 30th and May 1st, the Program will host an EPA booth with hands-on air quality activities at the Education Days event in Durham. Education Days provides hundreds of elementary, middle and high school students with opportunities to learn outside of the classroom setting with interactive learning stations from local organizations.
- On May 3rd, the Program will present about electric/hybrid vehicles and EPA careers at Mills Park Middle School’s Truck Fair in Cary, N.C. Also, on May 3rd, the Program will present about EPA careers at Sanford Creek Elementary School’s Career Day in Rolesville, N.C.